BENGALURU, MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 18 | Humidity 36% Partly Sunny Sensex 74,532 | Nifty 23,114 | Gold 1,44,825 | Silver 2,27,470 | Dollar 94.01 | Euro 108.38 | GBP 125.23

90% viewers are active on another screen while watching live sport

YouTube drives 2.3x incremental ROAS vs social media

There's only one YouTube

Source
1. Google commissioned Kantar Sports Fan Research 2024, Deloitte analysis.
2. Equity-to-Sales MMM Meta Analysis commissioned by Google, covering a 2-year measurement period of 20 CPG brands from across the 2021-2023 timeframe. "Long-term ROAS" is defined as impact of each marketing channel in driving brand equity & this brand equity's impact in driving sales, relative to the marketing channel's media spend.

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ANIMAL PLANET

Chilled vegetables, fruits, ice candies, tender coconut water and water sprinkler system keep it cool at the zoo

PAGE 4

APATHETIC ORDER

BDA notice asking psycho-social rehab centre that houses over 50 patients with mental illnesses to vacate premises comes as brutal blow

PAGE 5

Transgender community raises voice against Bill that tosses out self-perceived gender identity, introduces framework for certification from medical board, undoing landmark Supreme Court judgment of 2019

JUST ONE DEMAND: KILL BILL

Activists, community members demand the Bill be withdrawn

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DR. B R AMBEDKAR
ಇತಿಹಾಸವು ಸರ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ,ಸರ್ಕಾರ! ಇತಿಹಾಸವನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಲಿ
History is Watching, Government!

The recently proposed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 has sparked widespread concern among members of the transgender community and activists, who warn that the changes could dilute constitutional protections and deepen existing inequalities in access to rights. These concerns and more were expressed during a protest last week when around 500 people gathered at Freedom Park with posters demanding that the Bill be withdrawn. Echoes of 'Jai Bheem' filled the air in a show of resistance.

For the trans community, a landmark judgment in 2019 by the Supreme Court had come as a light at the end of the tunnel. In the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vs Union of India, the Apex Court ruled that an individual is free to identify oneself in any gender they wish to be identified by. This considers the preferences of the individual based on one's physical, mental, and emotional needs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"It is heartbreaking to know that people of our own country don't see us as normal. We are constantly fighting for our rights and live with deep trauma because of how we are treated. The amendment is not just humiliating for us, it takes away the little pride we began to feel after 2019

—Mallappa, a trans woman and social activist

At rock bottom

As storage capacity of lakes in city's outskirts plummets, researchers say harnessing rainfall, deeper desilting can help alleviate water situation

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The storage capacity of lakes in Bengaluru's outskirts has dropped by more than half over the last 15 years. While the total volume of 3,800 water bodies in Bengaluru's periphery in 2011 was 5,551 million cubic metres, it dropped to 2,629 million cubic metres in 2024, registering a decline of 53 percent.

The total number of water bodies in the area studied has also gone down to 3,379 in 2024 from 3,835 in 2011, leading to a significant reduction in lake area. These aspects have been highlighted in a study conducted by researchers at Prayoga Institute of Education Research in the city. The study, with high school students as volunteers, investigated small and big water bodies in the peripheral areas of the city with the help of satellite imagery mapping and field inspections.

The team used remote sensing techniques to analyse lake surfaces and conducted scientific surveys for understanding the subsurface structure of lakebeds. Some of the water bodies studied include Kaggalipura Lake, Suvarnamukhi reservoir and river, Vrishabhavathi reservoir, Harohalli lake, Somahalli lake, and Nelaguli lake.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Classical delight

The Nadathur Foundation is organising the 5th edition of Nada Sambhrama, a concert series dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rich tradition of Indian classical music. This edition represents an enchanting evening of Hindustani music featuring Vidhushi Shubha Mudgal. **Where: Mangala Mandapa Auditorium, NMKRV Campus; When: March 28, 6.30 pm**

02 Future in frame

The 9th edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) is being held under the theme 'Tomorrow, Altered!', featuring over 300 works across fine art, sculptures, installations, photography exhibitions, and curated artist showcases. **Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road; When: Until April 12**

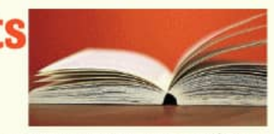
03 Nature within

Kapila Nahender presents Pockets of Resistance, a new body of work that examines the subtle yet powerful ways in which nature continues to exist within the dense fabric of contemporary cities through a series of layered oil paintings. **Where: Venkatappa Art Gallery; When: Until March 29, 11 am to 6 pm**

04 Rest assured

ArtFlute is presenting Choosing to Rest, an online exhibition that explores rest not as inactivity, but as presence - a moment of listening to the body, intuition, and inner rhythm in a world defined by speed and constant output. **Where: ArtFlute Online Gallery (www.artflute.com); When: Until April 10**

05 World of sports



Atta Galatta is bringing a sports writing workshop with a squad of aspiring and seasoned writers for a journey into the high-stakes world of sports journalism and storytelling. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 28, 11 am**

Shutdown of ABC centre puts stray management at risk

Operations at centre for sterilisation of stray dogs in Yelahanka allegedly stopped due to delays in clearing pending bills; construction of new observation centre to be finished soon

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The Animal Birth Control (ABC) centre at Medi Agrahara in Yelahanka Assembly constituency, equipped with 120 kennels and inaugurated by then Bengaluru Development Minister KJ George on February 14, 2018, was established to curb the city's stray dog population through sterilisation programmes. Over the years, the facility played a crucial role in managing stray dogs in Yelahanka and Mahadevapura. However, since March 9, the centre has remained shut, halting all ABC surgeries.

For years, the Animal Birth Control (ABC) centre at Medi Agrahara carried out 10 to 15 sterilisation surgeries daily. With operations grinding to a halt, stray dogs in Byatarayanapura Assembly constituency are left without care. The shutdown, reportedly triggered by delays in clearing pending bills, has brought the centre's vital work to a standstill.

An employee, on the condition of anonymity, said that authorities are yet to clear bills pending from July last year. "It has become tough for us to pay salaries to the workers. More than 20 workers, including doctors and assistants, work at this ABC centre. We have been appealing to the authorities to clear our pending bills but in vain. The authorities recently made arrangements to release only Rs 15 lakh against the pending bills worth Rs 65 lakh. The authorities did not release funds for the last eight months. Many workers have left their jobs as we could not pay salaries to them on time. Medicine bills are pending," said the employee.

Sujaya Jagadish, member of SPCA, described the disruption of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme at the North GBA–Yelahanka centre, caused by pending payments amounting to several lakhs, as a critical failure that undermines a Supreme Court-mandated initiative. She noted that the recurring issues of non-payment and poor infrastructure in Bengaluru are crippling the city's limited pool of qualified NGOs, placing immense strain on on-ground caretakers now forced to manage a growing, unsterilised dog population amid rising public complaints. "Halting such a vital programme is not only unacceptable but also carries severe legal and public health consequences. Therefore, ensuring timely payments and uninterrupted implementation is essential to maintain population control and support the daily efforts of those managing the street dog community," said Jagadish.

The condition of the drain chambers at the kennel blocks is poor, with some left uncovered, posing risks to both workers and dogs. The rabies isolation block is also in disrepair. Though it has four kennels, the doors are rusted and many cannot be locked, creating safety concerns for staff tasked with feeding dogs under rabies observation.

A newly built stray dog observation centre has allegedly been constructed in an unscientific manner, making it unsuitable for housing dogs over extended periods. At present, the facility remains unused and is instead being used to store cement bags.

Instead of focusing on maintenance of the existing structures, authorities have reportedly taken up the construction of a stray dog observation centre at an estimated cost of Rs 2 crore. The shelter, aimed to accommodate 500 stray dogs, is expected to be ready soon. On the construction of a shelter for street dogs adjacent to the existing ABC centre and housing for ABC NGO workers, Jagadish noted that the permanent housing of dogs could lead to significant noise, substantial biological waste, and unpleasant odours affecting the surrounding area. Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Animal Husbandry Assistant Director Lokesh P said the maintenance of the existing kennels, including rabies isolation kennels, will be taken up this year. "The construction of the dog shelter will be completed in 3 to 4 months. The existing stray dog observation centre will also be utilised," he said.

Ensuring timely payments and uninterrupted implementation is essential to maintain population control and support daily efforts of those managing stray dog community, says SPCA member

Hotels reel under ₹150 crore loss amid LPG cylinder shortage

Bengaluru's hotel industry has suffered losses of around Rs 150 crore this week following a severe disruption in commercial cylinder supply. Even after paying in advance, many hoteliers had to shut down their kitchens as cylinders were unavailable. Some hotels are managing with alternatives like induction, wood, and electrical cooking, while limiting menu items and rationing meals and many have been operating at a loss for the past three weeks. A hotelier said, "The government has promised increased cylinder supplies starting Monday or Tuesday, currently arranging 1,000 commercial cylinders daily for hotels. Hence, the Hotel Owners' Association has demanded a rise to 5,000 cylinders." On the other hand, for paying guest accommodations, the supply has been reduced to 500 cylinders per day, with shared cooking solutions adopted to manage demand. Despite supply issues, meal delivery to PGs is improving thanks to these alternative measures. Hotels Association Honorary President PC Rao said if the promised increase materialises, sector could begin to recover. — BMB

No age exemption for teachers' census duty

The state government has clarified that all teachers, including those over 50, will be assigned to census duties, and no exemptions have been granted. Departments have informed all municipal and district officials that messages circulating online suggesting that teachers above 50 will be excused are false. The Election Commission has directed that for the upcoming intensive revision of voter lists and census operations, all teachers, including senior female school teachers, must be deployed as required. Government school teachers have already received instructions to report for census duties, and training sessions for master trainers have begun in Bengaluru. — BMB

Bengaluru Metro's Pink Line set to be launched in May

Metro's Pink Line is set to start operations in May, with the elevated 7.5 km stretch from Kalenahalli Agrahara to Tavarekere now complete. This section will feature six stations and form part of the larger 21.26 km Pink Line from Kalenahalli Agrahara to Nagawara. A total of 23 trains will run on this corridor, including six driverless trains, four of which have already arrived, with the remaining two expected in the first week of April. Officials said that the trial runs and comprehensive testing, including speed, load, track, station, and power checks, are being conducted by RDSO officials and will continue until April 5. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) aims to make the line fully operational by the end of May, with all necessary preparations underway before passenger services begin. Currently, the city has 96.10 km of metro routes in service. — BMB

Govt school teacher faces CID probe in ₹3.62 crore scam

CID Cyber Police are closely monitoring bank accounts used to facilitate cyber frauds across the state. A recent investigation has revealed that a 25-year-old mathematics teacher at a government school in Gokak, is under scrutiny for his account being used in a Rs 30.52 lakh transaction linked to a Rs 3.62 crore cyber scam in 2025. After receiving a notice to appear for questioning, the teacher sought anticipatory bail, which the city's 52nd Sessions Court rejected on March 17, citing the gravity of the offence, including targeting senior citizens. Cyber officials told the court that the fraud involved an international network, and it was crucial to trace the kingpins and seize the laundered funds, making custodial interrogation necessary. The case highlights the growing risk of cyber exploitation of elderly citizens, as in April 2025, a 76-year-old coffee grower from Madikeri was lured with promises of double returns in the stock market. — BMB

CRIME FILES

3 die in truck-van crash

Three women died after a tempo traveller vehicle rammed into an open ruck on NH 648 near Rani Cross Flyover on Saturday.

Devanahalli Traffic Police officials arrived at the scene and said the incident took place around 11.50 pm. As per police reports, the vehicle carrying 15 passengers from Tiptur towards Kempegowda International Airport collided with an open truck near Hoskote.

Yashodamma, Ganga, and Jayamma were injured and they succumbed to injuries while on the way to the hospital.

The other 11 passengers have been shifted to Sri Shirdi Sai Hospital and Akash Hospital for treatment. Four of the injured are currently undergoing treatment in the ICU. The driver of the passenger vehicle, Raviteja, is also undergoing treatment. **BMB**

3 die after truck rams parked vehicle

Three persons died on Medahalli Flyover, which comes under the limits of KR Puram Traffic Police after a speeding mini-truck collided with a stationary canter vehicle parked on the side of the road due to a tyre puncture.

Police revealed that the canter vehicle was carrying potatoes from Kolar when it developed a mechanical issue, following which the driver pulled over to the side to fix the tyre. It was at that time that the truck coming from Hoskote towards KR Puram, crashed into it.

Due to the severe impact, the front portion of the truck was crushed, while the canter also suffered heavy damage. Three residents of Whitefield, identified as Suresh, Srinivas, and Manikantha, died in the accident. Police said two persons died on the spot, while one, later succumbed on the way to the hospital. The vehicle belonged to a person identified as Raju. **BMB**

Stolen gold hidden in stolen 2-wheeler

Investigating into a case of vehicle theft, the JC Nagar police arrested a suspicious person near 14th Cross, Govindapura on March 11 after receiving a tip-off from an informant. The police took custody of the vehicle and, during interrogation, the accused revealed that he had stolen it.

On further questioning, he said the two-wheeler was stolen from the jurisdiction of Shivajinagar Police Station and that he had kept 40 grams of gold jewellery in the boot, which was later sold through a relative. On March 12, the relative was taken into custody and revealed the jewellery had been pledged at two shops in Govindapura. Both accused were produced before the court the same day and remanded to six days of police custody. Police recovered 34 gm of jewellery from one shop and 6 grams from another. **BMB**

Drug peddlers nabbed

Ramamurthy Nagar police have arrested a person for selling narcotic substances near KR Puram Railway Station on March 11. The police seized 14 grams of MDMA along with 94 grams of ganja. The police said that the sale of these drugs would fetch approximately Rs 52,000.

As per the police report, the officials received credible information and nabbed the accused during a raid conducted at the location. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime and stated that he wanted to make quick money, which led him to peddling.

The special operation was led by ACP Banaswadi Sub Division Umashankar NH, and the police team was headed by Inspector Satish GJ from Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station.

The police have registered a case under the provisions of the NDPS Act. **BMB**

Man hacked to death on the road

A 25-year-old man was hacked to death between 4 am and 4.30 am on T.C. Palya Main Road in Ramamurthy Nagar. The victim, identified as Kiran, succumbed to severe head injuries on the spot, lying amidst a pool of blood on the side of the road.

As per the police, the victim had a known criminal record, with 10 cases registered against him at KR Puram Police Station, mostly related to drunken fights. Police also revealed that he was unemployed, unmarried, and had no links to any rowdy-sheeter network.

Police said that Kiran was under the influence of alcohol when he got involved in an argument the previous night. The fight escalated into a brutal attack, as he was chased by a group of assailants armed with weapons on the main road. He was attacked on the head with a blunt object, allegedly by an auto-rickshaw driver, and died on the spot. Officers from Ramamurthy Nagar Station conducted an inspection. **BMB**

Traffic restrictions in view of protests from today

In view of protests happening at Freedom Park from Monday to Wednesday, the traffic police within the jurisdiction of Upparpet Traffic Police Station have warned of heavy congestion near Seshadri Road.

In order to manage the traffic flow, officials have suggested temporary diversions and alternative routes and have requested the public to cooperate.

Commuters travelling from Shanthala Junction and Khoday Circle towards Anand Rao Flyover, Seshadri Road, and Freedom Park are advised to take Lulu Mall Road, KFM Road, Rajiv Gandhi Circle, Mantri Mall Road, Swastik Circle, Seshadripuram, Nehru Circle, Race Course Flyover, and Race Course Road.

Those heading from Mysore Bank side towards Chalukya Circle should proceed via KG Road, Mysore

Bank Junction, Sagar Junction, KG Junction, Elite, TB Road, KFM Road, Rajiv Gandhi Circle, Swastik Circle, Nehru Circle, and Race Course Flyover Road.

Motorists travelling from Chalukya Circle towards Mysore Bank are advised to take Chalukya Circle, LRD, Raj Bhavan Road, Infantry Road, and Indian Express Road.

Commuters from Kalidasa Road and Kanakadasa Junction towards Freedom Park should turn right at Kanakadasa Junction towards Sagar Junction, while those from Maurya and Subbanna Junction should turn right at Subbanna Junction towards Anand Rao Circle. **BMB**

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Bannerghatta zoo keeps animals cool, plans leopard rehab centre expansion

Chilled treats, sprinklers and new leopard rehabilitation centre announced as Bannerghatta Biological Park steps up animal care and wildlife conservation efforts this summer

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Bannerghatta safari enclosure with tigers on display, as authorities announce new conservation measures and rehabilitation facilities to support wildlife protection efforts

Animals at the Bannerghatta Biological Park are being kept cool and healthy with chilled vegetables, fruits, ice candies, and tender coconut water. Additionally, a fine water sprinkler system has been installed to provide relief from the heat.

Measures have been taken to ensure that every animal in the zoo and safari enclosures receives food suited to its diet as well as the surrounding weather conditions. Officials said the arrangements are part of the park's annual summer management plan aimed at protecting animals from rising temperatures. Elephants and giraffes are being given salt licks to maintain mineral balance, while bears are provided with ice blocks made from mixed fruits and vegetables along with tender coconut water to help them stay hydrated. Monkeys are being fed a combination of fruits and vegetables frozen into ice candies, allowing them to remain active while coping with the heat.

Executive Director Surya Sen said that temperatures have increased over the past few days, making it necessary to introduce additional cooling measures inside the enclosures. Shade has been arranged in different sections of the park, and a fine water sprinkler system has been installed for animals that are more sensitive to heat. He added that, as done in previous years, chilled fruit blocks and ice treats are being given to animals to keep them comfortable during the summer months.

The park is also set to receive a major boost following the State budget announcement on the establishment of a leopard rehabilitation centre within the biological park. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently announced that the facility will be built at a cost of ₹5 crore and is expected to strengthen wildlife conservation efforts while adding to the park's safari attractions. Bannerghatta already houses the country's largest leopard safari spread over nearly 20 hectares, along with tiger, lion and bear safaris that draw large numbers of visitors throughout the year. Officials said the proposed rehabilitation centre will provide care, food and shelter for rescued leopards before they are released back into suitable habitats or shifted to protected enclosures. The move is expected to support conservation work and also address concerns in villages located along forest fringes where leopard sightings are occasionally reported.

From ice treats and water sprinklers to a proposed leopard rehabilitation centre, Bannerghatta Biological Park is upgrading animal care facilities while strengthening conservation measures and reducing human-wildlife conflict near forest areas

Wildlife experts and local residents have welcomed the decision, stating that a dedicated facility will help in the safe management of rescued animals and reduce fear among farmers living near forest areas. At present, orphaned leopard cubs separated from their mothers are kept within the safari facility until they are strong enough to survive in protected enclosures. Meanwhile, the State cabinet has also approved railway barricade protection worth ₹10.83 crore in the Bannerghatta National Park area to prevent human-wildlife conflict.

MLAs to decide Bengaluru Park timings amid access and safety debate

The issue of how long public parks in Bengaluru should remain open has been placed in the hands of local legislators, as civic authorities weigh concerns around safety, accessibility, and budget constraints. The matter came up during a pre-budget meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, where MLAs from the city discussed various urban issues. On park timings, it was decided that instead of enforcing a uniform schedule across Bengaluru, elected representatives would determine suitable hours for parks within their respective constituencies. The discussion reflects a growing divide over the use of public spaces. Many residents have pushed for extended hours, particularly during afternoons and late evenings, citing the need for more accessible recreational spaces in a rapidly expanding city. However, others raise concerns about safety, maintenance, and the potential for misuse during hours when monitoring is limited. Legislators pointed out that any decision on extending timings must be backed by adequate resources, including security personnel and maintenance staff. Without sufficient funding, longer hours could strain existing infrastructure and lead to neglect or safety lapses.

The meeting also touched on broader civic challenges, including infrastructure development, fund allocation, and the regulation of unauthorised hoardings and flex boards across the city. "After a lot of push from many quarters, over many years, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) issued instructions to keep the parks open all day. Some RWAs felt 'outsiders' come to 'their' parks and cause 'safety issues' and used their influence with their MLAs to lock the parks during the day and now they are threatening to change the policy as well. We have 1240+ public parks. Perhaps, the highest in the country. They are the gardens of the garden city and keep our green legacy going even amidst the explosion of concrete structures. They offer a pleasant break from heat and traffic and often make walking distance shorter. Parks belong to everyone in the city and must be kept open all day", wrote prominent activist Srinivas Alavilli on X.

Visitors spend time at a public park after sunset, reflecting growing demand for longer opening hours despite officials warning about limited security and resources

On the other hand, certain civic groups advocate for a balanced, locality-specific approach. "Different neighbourhoods have different patterns of usage," a member of a residents' welfare association explained. "In some areas, early morning and evening access is sufficient, while in others there is genuine demand for extended hours. A decentralised decision-making process could help address these variations", she explained. Urban planning experts note that park accessibility plays a key role in improving quality of life in dense cities like Bengaluru. "Public parks are not just leisure spaces; they are essential urban lungs that contribute to both physical and mental well-being," said an urban design specialist. "However, extending hours without strengthening on-ground management could create more challenges than benefits," he added.

— BMB

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Tipper lorries without number plates

Mysore Road

Several tipper lorries without rear number plates spotted near Mysore Road are making it difficult to report cases of rash driving.

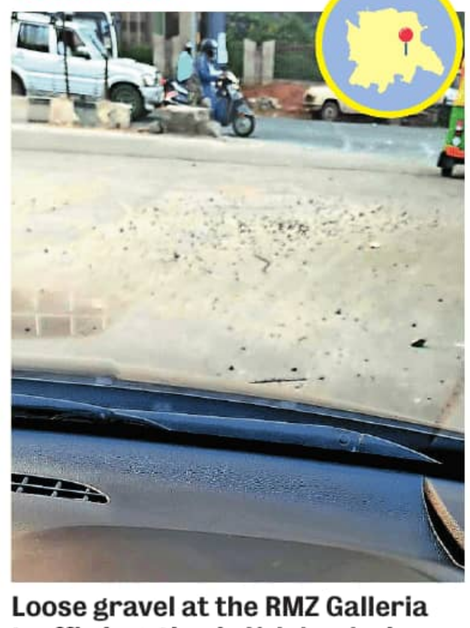
Abandoned car

Kaggadasapura

An abandoned car lying for months near Domino's Pizza on Kaggadasapura Road is causing garbage pile-up and footpath obstruction, with no action from authorities.

Loose gravel hazard

Yelahanka



Loose gravel at the RMZ Galleria traffic junction in Yelahanka is creating a safety hazard for commuters and motorists passing through the stretch.

Handmade sketches take children's concerns to CM

Children convey appeal to officials through drawings, while parents call for measures to ensure age eligibility criteria does not negatively impact young students

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For thousands of young children across Karnataka, crayons and sketchbooks have become a medium to express confusion, hope, and quiet distress. This week, hand-drawn appeals from students reached the desks of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and Education Minister, each reflecting a simple wish to move forward with their classmates.

Parents' associations have highlighted that over three lakh children born between June and December 2020 now face an unexpected academic limbo. Despite completing their current academic year, many may be required to repeat a grade due to age-related eligibility criteria, leaving families and educators grappling with the consequences.

The situation has reportedly created emotional contradiction. Several schools have already conducted graduation ceremonies, where children

proudly walked across stages in caps and gowns, celebrating their progression. Yet, soon after, parents were informed that their children might not be promoted.

Parents revealed that for many families, the hardest part has been explaining this reversal to their children. One parent shared that their daughter, who believed she had successfully completed her grade, could not understand why she would have to start over.

They added that child psychologists warn that such disruptions at an early stage can have lasting effects. They cautioned that forcing children to repeat a grade after experiencing a sense of achievement could harm their confidence and disrupt learning continuity, stressing that early education should foster curiosity and emotional security rather than create confusion or self-doubt.

Parents have also pointed to the provisions of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, particularly the 'No Detention Policy' which is intended to prevent academic setbacks and discouragement in foundational years. They argue that children who were admitted under existing norms are now being adversely affected by a transition in policy.

Comparisons are being drawn with states such as Kerala, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, where authorities have reportedly allowed exemptions for already enrolled students to ensure continuity in learning.

Parents maintain that their demand is not for special treatment, but for consistency. They highlight that a similar situation last year was addressed through a seven-month relaxation granted by the government after a court petition was dismissed. With the State Education Policy (SEP) yet to be fully implemented and admission deadlines approaching, they are now urging authorities to adopt a similar interim measure.

Rehabilitation centre faces eviction over BDA notice

Development authority's land acquisition plans for proposed works allegedly displaces over 50 patients of psycho-social care centre, many of whom have been left by their families

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A psycho-social rehabilitation centre, home to more than 50 patients with psychosis and neurosis since 2013, now faces uncertainty following a notice from the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA). The centre, maintained by Kshema Mind Care Trust and operating on rented premises, has been asked to vacate the land, which was notified for acquisition in 2010 for the formation of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. If enforced, the notice could leave the residents without shelter.

The notice stated that shelters built on government land must be removed to make way for the proposed road for residents of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. Members of Kshema Mind Care Trust have been seeking relief, appealing to BDA officials either for more time to find a suitable location or for a lease arrangement to continue serving patients with psychosis and neurosis who have been abandoned by their families.

With no prospect of relief, members of Kshema Mind Care Trust have begun the process of discharging the inmates. However, parents and guardians are not coming forward to take them home.

"I am a central government employee. My mother Lakshmi is living with dementia. I admitted my mother to the psycho-social rehabilitation centre maintained by Kshema Mind Care Trust as it became difficult for us to look after her. I want the BDA officials to allow the psycho-social rehabilitation centre to continue functioning at the same location for the welfare of inmates on humanitarian grounds," said NB Basavaraj, kin of a patient at the rehabilitation centre.

Since over a decade, psycho-social rehabilitation centre has reportedly been home to patients with psychosis and neurosis

Founder of organisation that runs psycho-social rehabilitation centre urges government for permission to operate out of same place, citing difficulty in accommodating patients in smaller setups

Some inmates at the psycho-social rehabilitation centre have gone on to become volunteers. One example is Sisvik V George, a nurse who was admitted a decade ago after being affected by psychosis. Today, Sisvik helps care for other inmates suffering from various ailments. "I want to remain here and serve the inmates. I do not want to go to my native place. I get peace and tranquility here," said Sisvik.

Sripathi KN, founder of Kshema Mind Care Trust, said he was unaware that the land belonged to the government when it was rented out by the landlord. "I appeal to the BDA officials to allow the psycho-social rehabilitation centre to function from the same location as it would be tough to accommodate around 50 psychosis and neurosis patients in a two or three-bedroom house. I am pleading with the authorities and philanthropists to allot us seven guntas of land for relocating this rehabilitation centre," said Sripathi.

While highlighting that the land where the Kshema Mind Care Trust is maintaining the psycho-social rehabilitation centre belongs to the government, Nikitha M Chinnaswamy, Special Land Acquisition Officer, BDA, said, "We do not have the provision to allot the government land to social organisations or trusts. They have to apply for civic amenities sites. It is illegal to collect the rent by someone for the land that belongs to the government."

Uncertainty looms over animal rescue centre

A rehabilitation and rescue centre for injured and abandoned animals is also facing trouble. BDA officials have issued a notice to Kavya, the caretaker of the centre. Kavya, a single mother, has been providing shelter to abandoned and injured animals, as well as those rescued from slaughterhouses, including stray dogs and abandoned cows. "BDA officials visited this spot a few years ago. They advised me to vacate a portion of the shed to make way for the road. I followed their advice and reconstructed the shed by leaving enough space for the construction of the proposed road. However, the BDA has issued a notice to vacate the place within seven days. I do not know where and how to rehabilitate these animals," said Kavya.

'Property valuation must be consistent across bodies'

The Karnataka High Court has held that the Karnataka State Financial Corporation (KSFC) cannot ignore the guidance value fixed by the State while assessing property offered as collateral for loans, stressing the need for consistency among government bodies.

The ruling came in a case involving a woman who sought financial assistance to start a business and had offered her land as security. She relied on the guidance value determined by the sub-registrar, which placed the property's worth at several crores. However, the KSFC assessed the same property at a significantly lower figure under its internal norms, thereby limiting her loan eligibility.

Questioning this approach, the petitioner argued that once a competent statutory authority has fixed a guidance value, another arm of the State cannot adopt a drastically different valuation to the detriment of citizens.

Rejecting the stand taken by the KSFC, the High Court observed that such a practice leads to inconsistency and unfairness. It remarked that "when the State itself prescribes a guidance value for a property, another instrumentality of the State cannot completely disregard the same while assessing the very property for a different purpose."

The court further noted that the guidance value is not confined only to registration or stamp duty purposes but has broader relevance.

Highlighting the disparity in the present case, the bench criticised the inconsistency in approach, observing that "there cannot be a dichotomy where the State insists on a higher value for the purpose of collecting stamp duty, but permits its financial institution to adopt a much lower valuation while granting loans."

While acknowledging that financial institutions are entitled to undertake independent risk assessment, the court made it clear that such assessments cannot be entirely divorced from the guidance value fixed by the government. In conclusion, the High Court directed the KSFC to take into account the guidance value determined by the sub-registrar while evaluating properties for mortgage loans, ensuring fairness and uniformity in the actions of State agencies.

–BMB

Violence, discrimination remain ground reality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to activists, the proposed amendment of 2026 stands in direct conflict with this principle, as it narrows the legal identification of a transgender person, as it removes the recognition of self-perceived gender identity.

Under the proposed changes, the definition is largely restricted to traditional socio-cultural identities such as Hijra, Kinner, Aravani, and Jogta, along with persons with intersex variations. This shift, as per community members, risks exclusion of a vast section of individuals, which includes trans men, trans women, and non-binary persons, whose identities are not confined to rigid, historically recognised categories but are rooted in self-perception.

The implications, activists say, extend far beyond legal language. "If this new amendment comes into play, there are high chances of violence and abuse towards trans men by their families. Some members leave their homes and can be subject to more dangerous situations. The worst part is, all of this goes unreported, as the government neglects our community time and again," said Kiran Nayak, a trans man with disabilities.

Another major point is the removal of provisions under the 2019 Act that explicitly recognised the right to self-perceived gender identity. The amendment introduces a framework that requires transgender persons to obtain certification from a government-appointed medical board. Even then, final recognition would rest with the discretion of a District Magistrate. The individual decision of self-identification is laid bare due to bureaucratic hurdles and time-taking actions, resulting in the stripping of individuals' decisions over their own identities.

"It is heartbreaking to know that people of our own country don't see us as normal. We are constantly fighting for our rights and live with deep trauma because of how we are treated. The new amendment is not just humiliating for us, it takes away the little pride we began to feel after 2019," said Mallappa, a trans woman and social activist. She added that the government must prioritise meaningful dialogue with the community instead of making policy decisions in isolation, stating that many welfare schemes remain inaccessible at the ground level.

"Not many are in favour of undergoing sex reassignment surgeries or hormone therapies. Some in the community are comfortable with their identity and appearance. Then why is the government trying to label them medically, stripping them of their rights and basic dignity?

Organisations such as the National Network for Gender and Sexual Minorities (NNGSM), a combination of activists and civil society groups across many districts of Karnataka and India, have described the amendment as a form of structural exclusion rather than mere legal reform. By redefining who qualifies as transgender, they argue, the law risks erasing identities that exist beyond traditional classifications and undermining the years of progress made through legal recognition.

Limited legal protection

The amendment's stated objective appears to limit legal protection to those who experience stark discrimination due to biological factors beyond their control. Community members argue that this approach misunderstands the human realities of gender identification, which they say cannot be reduced to biology or cultural labels. It also raises concerns about the exclusion of individuals whose identities are evolving or are fluid.

Activists highlight their challenges when it comes to surgical procedures and aftercare, which can affect the physical and mental health of individuals seeking treatment such as ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) and HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) therapies, along with Gender Reaffirmation Surgeries (genital or chest surgery). Most individuals face great difficulties and discrimination, as hospitals lack infrastructure for transgender individuals, both medically and facility-wise. Another setback is financial access, as most in the community cannot afford such surgeries that can cost up to Rs 5 lakh or more, with a healing period of up to a year in the majority of cases.

While the Bill does propose stricter punishments for crimes such as forced castration, exploitation, and violence against transgender persons, activists question the practical impact of these provisions. On the ground, they say, violence and discrimination remain constant, particularly in spaces like hospitals, workplaces, and educational institutions areas that are meant to be safe and inclusive. Many violations against transgender communities go unreported and uncared for, whereas, according to the Bill, safeguarding an individual's dignity against all odds is the primary objective of any such legislative action.

"Not many are in favour of undergoing sex reassignment surgeries or hormone therapies. Some in the community are comfortable with their identity and appearance. Then why is the government trying to label them medically, stripping them of their rights and basic dignity?" said Riyana Raju, a trans woman and Secretary of NNGSM. She also pointed to the lack of trained medical professionals equipped to address transgender healthcare needs, adding that while many trans persons face harassment or inappropriate behaviour in clinical settings, numerous experiences which go unreported due to stigma and fear.

Schemes inaccessible

Karnataka was the first to implement 1 percent horizontal reservation for transgender persons in all government services in July 2021, but as per activists, the benefits of the scheme come with conditions, and the proposed Bill is only going to strengthen that premise and create hurdles for individuals self-identifying, in turn making the schemes under the state look good on paper while no such action translates on the ground. As per the census done in 2011, Karnataka recorded 20,266 transgender persons in the state, with 1,771 transgender children; 3,275 were Scheduled Castes and 1,324 were Scheduled Tribes with a total literacy rate of 58.82 percent.

Under the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, launched in 2024, which aims to provide cashless health insurance, over 3,000 verified transgender persons have participated nationwide but on the ground the scheme has failed to help the community, generating a success rate of just 0.75 percent.

In the government's livelihood and skill training schemes, fewer than 1,400 transgender persons have been rehabilitated, and just under 800 have received any form of skill development training. In schemes for the non-trans population, the government has repeatedly flagged fraudulent beneficiaries in Parliament, which goes unreported as the number of seekers is low and due to government structures, it makes it difficult for many to even avail of them.

Your Connect

tender & notices

TENDERS

E-AUCTION SALE

UPS Express Pvt Ltd
(By Customs Custodian)

As per Section 48 of the Customs Act, 1962, an E-Auction will be conducted for the disposal of unclaimed courier consignments consisting of Machineries, Electronics, Electrical items, Textile goods, Printed Matter, etc., on an **"AS IS WHERE IS"** basis. The E-Auction will be conducted by **M/s. MSTC Ltd.** as per the schedule given below:

E-Auction Details
Date: **26.03.2026**
Time: **11:00 to 15:00**
Inspection Details
Inspection Period:
23.03.2026 to 24.03.2026
Time: **10:00 to 16:00**
Inspection Venue:
UPS Express Pvt Ltd,
Plot No. 107, First Floor, General Warehouse Building, AISATS BLR Logistics Park, C-30, Kempe Gowda International Airport, Devanahalli, Bengaluru – 560300
Contact Details (Customs Custodian)
Telephone: **080-4617 7935**
Mobile No.: **+91 72089 69613**
Interested bidders are requested to register on the MSTC portal to participate in the **E-Auction: Website: www.mstcecommerce.com**
For Further Information, Please Contact: **M/s. MSTC Ltd.**
MSTC LIMITED,
19/5 & 19/6, 3rd Floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bangalore – 560052
Telephone: (080) 2225 6367 / 2226 0054 / 2226 6417
Fax: (080) 2225 6367.

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

HSR LAYOUT

HSR Layout 1st sector 28th Main Corner Auction Site for Sale 1043 Sqft (south east) with Borewell sanction Plan Contact IMRAN. 9845952411

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SUITABLE for Schools, coaching institutes, PG, hostels/office,Partnership preferred for educational institutions call-9945007334

FOR SALE

FLATS RESALE

FLAT Resale NrKodigehalli Railway station -2BHK, 2nd floor BUA-1133 sqft, UDS-419 sqft East Facing, CCP, Lift, cctv. 8778864431

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ADAM HASSAN KADAR, D.O.B: 24.06.1974, (Passport No. H5988021) S/o. Abdul Sheikh Kutty Kadar, Residing at No. 201, ADL Sunshine Apartment, 4th Main, 23rd Cross, Rajivgandhi Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru -560068, Karnataka, have changed my father's name from HASSAN SAYED ABDUL KADAR to ABDUL SHEIKH KUTTY KADAR, vide affidavit dated: 16.03.2026 before notary GANGARAJU .B.N, Bengaluru.

WE, KRISHNA DEEPAK CHAMANA & PURNIMA CHAMANA R/o Survey No. 24, Villa No. SR-18, Urban X Earth N Skya, Seegehalli, Kannamangala, Bengaluru - 560067. Do Hereby Declare that we have changed my minor Daughter's name From HANYA ISTHA CHAMANA to HANYA ISHTA CHAMANA vide affidavit dated: 19/03/2026 FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

I, Lavanya. G R/o. No. 207, 2nd Floor, Sai Sunny Heights, Tata Nagar, Near Bescom office, Kodigehalli Blr-560092. Reference Passport No. J2893992. Changed my name from Lavanya Rathinam to Lavanya. G. to all further purposes.(G full form is Gopi).

I, Nishat Fateema Abdul Basit Shaikh, W/o Abdul Basit Shaikh, R/o Sunshine Apt, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore 560029, have changed name to Nishat Kaiser Farooqui.

I Yeshodha Srinivasan Rayapura Natesan R/o 108/A 3rd Main Road Srinivasanagar Bsk 1st Stage Bengaluru-50 Have changed my name to Yeshodha Srinivasan.

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Mitigation measures: Lake rejuvenation, 2-layer-deep excavation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The idea was to provide feasible solutions for rejuvenating lakes and enhancing urban water security. "This study was conducted under the Anveshana project. We have tried to analyse if Bengaluru can become self-reliant with its water needs. Currently, more than half of the city is dependent on Cauvery water supply. This is when the city received good rainfall. The idea is to understand how we can have enough water by improving storage of these water bodies," said Dr Ajit Singh, Principal Researcher, Earth Sciences, Prayoga Institute of Education Research.

According to researchers, capturing and harnessing rainfall will help significantly reduce dependence on expensive external water sources. Investing in lake rejuvenation is therefore both an environmentally and economically sustainable solution. A planned excavation of accumulated sediment can help increase lake storage capacity and recharge the groundwater table.

Desilting woes

With scientific assessment and proper restoration, Bengaluru's lakes can play a crucial role in storing rainwater, recharging groundwater, and strengthening the city's long-term water security. However, the excavation proposed is a step ahead of desilting that the Greater Bengaluru Authority has performed on more than 70 lakes in the city under its lake rejuvenation project. "Desilting, conducted by GBA, involves scraping off some layers of sediments. However, Bengaluru's lakes, more often than not, have a couple of metres of nutrient-rich soil at the bottom, followed by a few metres of alluvium layer. The excavation that we suggest includes removal of both these layers. This will also resolve eutrophication of lakes, apart from increasing storage capacity leading to water security," added Dr Singh.

However, to make the process financially sustainable, the economic value of the nutrient-rich soil and alluvium needs to be explored. "If the alluvium layer excavated from the lakes can be used as replacement of sand in construction is an aspect that still needs to be explored to make excavation financially sustainable. This will also provide an economic case for lake rejuvenation," added Dr Singh.

BM SIMPLY PUT

New Karnataka rule mandates permission, fees for public-visible ads, aims to curb illegal hoardings and boost civic revenue

Taxing ads on pvt property: Decoding the new law

The Karnataka Assembly last week approved a key amendment allowing local bodies to levy fees on advertisements displayed in public view, even on private property. The move is aimed at bringing greater regulation to outdoor advertising while improving revenue collection and curbing unauthorised hoardings across urban areas.

What is the new rule?
Any advertisement that is visible to the public, whether placed on private or government property, will now require prior written permission from the local authority. Such displays will also attract a prescribed fee based on size and type.

Why has this been introduced?
The government has introduced this measure to address large-scale revenue losses caused by unauthorised advertisements. It also aims to bring better regulation and accountability to outdoor advertising across cities.

Who will implement it?
Urban local bodies such as city corporations, municipal councils, and town panchayats will be responsible for granting permissions, fixing fees within limits, and ensuring compliance with the new rules.

Will all advertisements be taxed?
No, the law clearly exempts advertisements related to elections, including those of candidates and public notices linked to the electoral process, from these charges.

What happens to illegal hoardings?
Authorities have been given clear powers to remove, dismantle, or take action against unauthorised advertisements that are displayed without approval, strengthening enforcement on the ground.

How much will advertisers pay?
The fee structure will vary depending on the size, type, and format of the advertisement. Different rates have been proposed for wall ads, hoardings, mobile displays, and illuminated advertisements.

Are there concerns?
Some legislators have raised concerns about possible misuse, particularly regarding advertisements in public-use spaces. The government has assured that safeguards will be put in place to avoid inconvenience to citizens.

What does this mean for businesses?
Businesses will now have to factor in permissions and fees while planning outdoor advertising. Non-compliance could lead to removal of ads, penalties, and disruption of promotional activities.

Ship with LPG reaches M'luru port from Texas

A cargo ship transporting Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from Texas in the United States has reached the New Mangalore Port in Mangaluru, amid concerns over global supply disruptions due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia. On Friday, the Shipping Ministry announced that New Mangalore Port has waived all cargo-related charges for crude oil and LPG from March 14 to March 31, and clarified that there is no congestion at any Indian port.

"All 22 Indian ships and 611 sailors in the Persian Gulf region are safe despite tensions in West Asia –Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Ministry Special Secretary

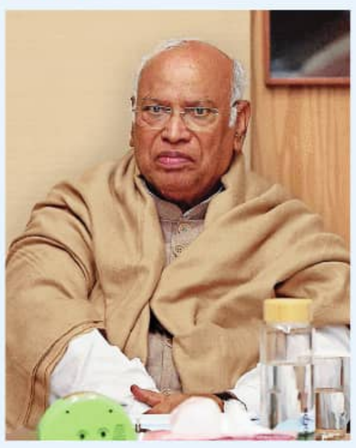
During an inter-ministerial briefing, Shipping Ministry Special Secretary Rajesh Kumar Sinha said all 22 Indian ships and 611 sailors in the Persian Gulf region are safe despite tensions in West Asia. He said no maritime incident has been reported in the last 24 hours and authorities are monitoring the situation. He added that the waiver of cargo-related charges applies to crude oil and LPG imports during the specified period.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said panic booking of LPG cylinders has reduced significantly. Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma said only 55 lakh bookings were recorded on Thursday, showing the earlier surge in demand has eased. She assured consumers that adequate stock is available across the country and no outlet is running dry, though concerns remain.

Earlier this week, Indian-flagged crude oil tanker Jag Laadki arrived at Adani Ports Mundra in Gujarat. LPG carriers MT Shivalik and MT Nanda Devi, carrying about 92,712 metric tonnes of LPG, also crossed the Strait of Hormuz and reached India on March 16 and 17 as the West Asia conflict entered its fourth week. **–ANI**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Love and divorce



Recently, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge took a swipe at former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, saying, "He loved us for 54 years, but ended up marrying Prime Minister Narendra Modi," drawing laughter across the House, with even the Prime Minister smiling. Responding later on the X platform, Deve Gowda turned the remark on its head, saying his alliance with the Congress was "not a love marriage but a forced one," adding that he had to "divorce" it due to differences, giving the political exchange a satirical finish.

Seer's warning?

Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Muniratna left the Assembly amused when he chose to say that he was not speaking about his own constituency. When a member teased him, asking if fear was the reason, Muniratna came up with a rather unusual explanation. With a straight face and a hint of sarcasm, he said a seer had advised him not to speak about his constituency, warning that it could land him in jail. "I am just following the advice," he remarked, leaving the House chuckling.

LPG excuse

Punctuality is non-negotiable for Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, and a few latecomers during the recent session had to face his sharp questions. The explanation, however, caught everyone off guard. Some members claimed they were delayed because they could not get food on time due to an LPG shortage. One member even insisted they were already inside Vidhana Soudha but were held up only because of the situation, adding that they were merely stating the reality. The excuse, whether genuine or not, certainly added a lighter moment to the proceedings.

'Acidic' tale

A discussion on excise revenue took an unexpected turn when Tumakuru Rural MLA Suresh Gowda shared a personal story. While alleging that pressure on the excise department to increase revenue indirectly encourages alcohol consumption, he recalled his long struggle with gastric issues. "I had consumed nearly one lakh Rantac tablets," he said, before adding that a doctor from Australia later diagnosed a bacterial infection through a blood test. "After proper treatment, I have not had acidity for 14 years," he noted, turning a policy debate into a personal health anecdote.

Public lesson

In a striking move, a Chikkamagaluru court delivered an unusual punishment to a drunk driving offender. Instead of just imposing a fine, the Kadur JMFC court directed the accused to stand in a public place holding a traffic rules placard from 10 am to 5 pm. The order came after he admitted to riding a bike under the influence of alcohol. At a time when many offenders assume they can get away with just paying a fine, the court's directive is being seen as a strong message aimed at creating awareness and accountability among habitual traffic violators. **–Sridhar Vivan**

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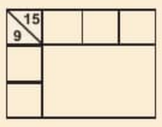
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

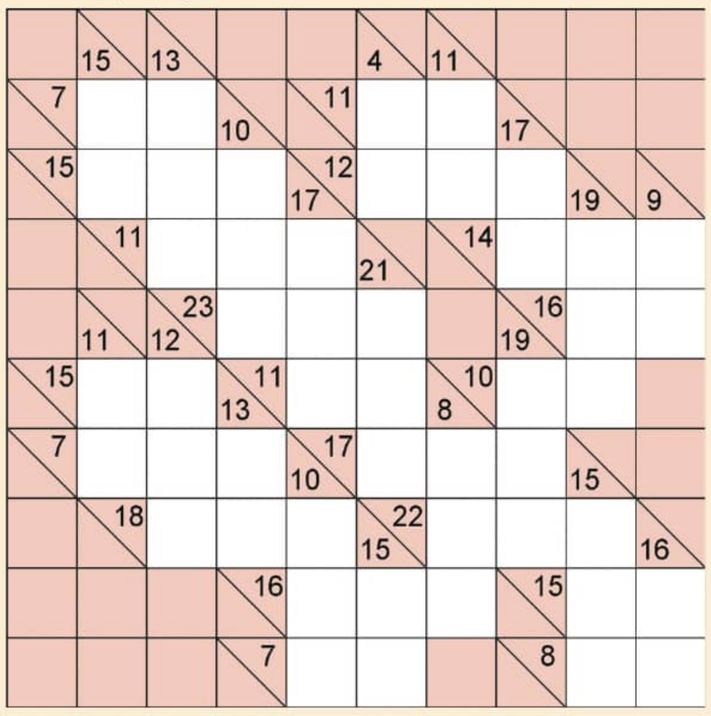
$\sqrt[3]{25} \times \sqrt[4]{5} \times \sqrt[12]{5} = ?$

Kakuro

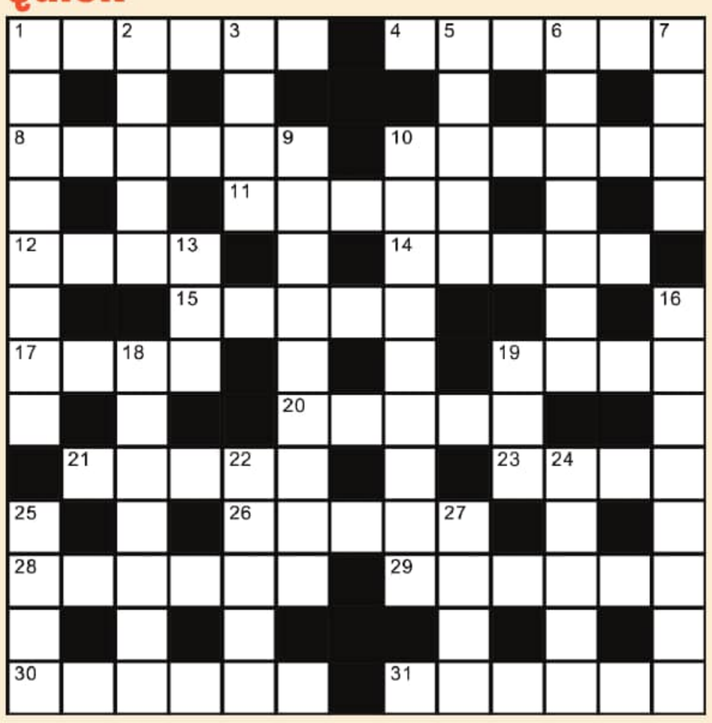
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Passageways (6)
4 A frozen taper (6)
8 Found a solution (6)
10 Scold or rebuke (6)
11 Rent out again (5)
12 Foolish or stupid person (4)
14 DNA-borne characteristics (5)
15 Ancient British tribe (5)
17 Sports channel (4)
19 Liquefy by heat (4)
20 Proprietor (5)
21 Permit (5)
23 Period of time (4)
26 Like a lot (5)
28 Indian snack (6)
29 Soundness of mind (6)
30 Overlook (6)
31 Wood-working tool (6)

DOWN

1 Handed over or allotted (8)
2 Volley of shots (5)
3 A wide-lipped jug (4)
5 Greek island (5)
6 The French mansion (7)
7 Those female sheep (4)
9 Former Karnataka Chief Minister who went on to become Prime Minister of India (4,5)
10 Learners, tyros or greenhorns (9)
13 Fish appendage (3)
16 Treachery (8)
18 Argumentative (7)
19 Cook in oil (3)
22 Sanctuary (5)
24 Corrects prior to publication (5)
25 Being in Latin (4)
27 Individually (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS T

CYG TQS CYQZS QV CYEC IWF RZWU UYEC IWF UEZC.

Linemaro

You must be a time lord. Because you have two hearts. Yours and mine

Mindchow

There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so

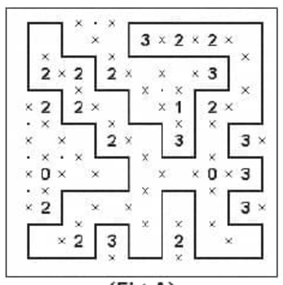
Joke of the day

What do you get when you cross a walrus with a bee? A wallaby!

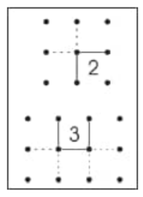
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

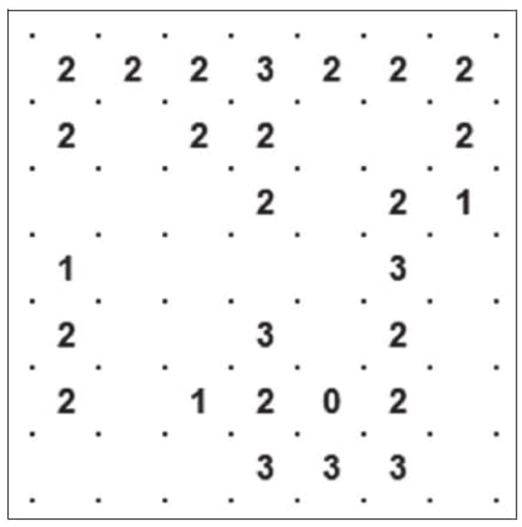


(Fig B) Not Allowed

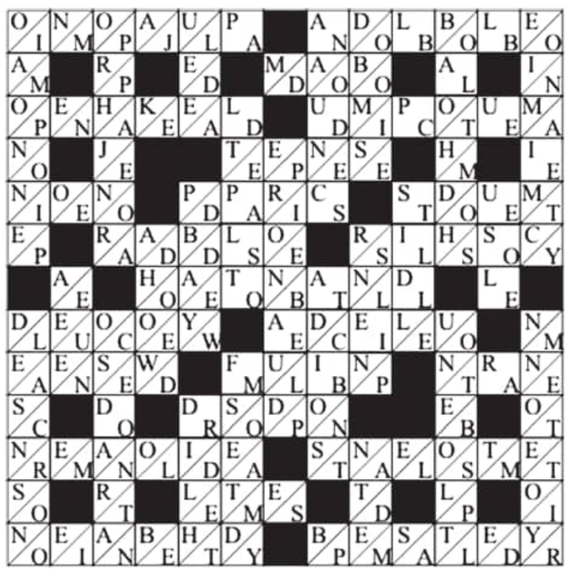
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				Y
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

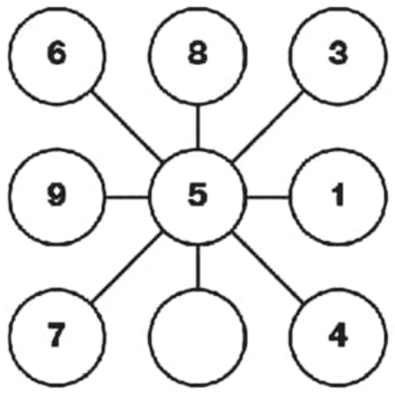
1 Cal BA; 6 Ley eg.;
7 Is sad; 8 Be ova;
9 Dimer

DOWN

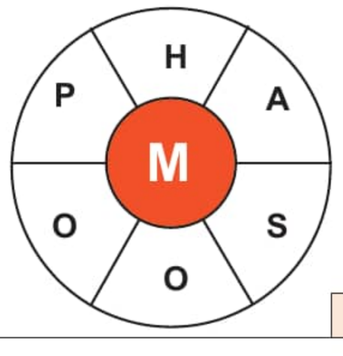
1 Arced; 2 Bail I;
3 Me sob; 4 Ave Ga;
5 Sly Ed

Mensapuzzle

Which number should be written in the empty circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2				3		
3	5	7				2	1	6
	6		3		2		4	
		3		4		8		
			1		8			
		5		9		4		
	9		4		7		8	
4	2	8				6	7	3
		1				5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 21

2 9 8 2

Medium = 24

6 7 7 4

Hard = 5

2 3 4 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Fence post is shorter. 2. Label on paint can is missing. 3. Mouth is different. 4. Bottom of man's shirt is different. 5. Woman's collar is smaller. 6. Window is different.

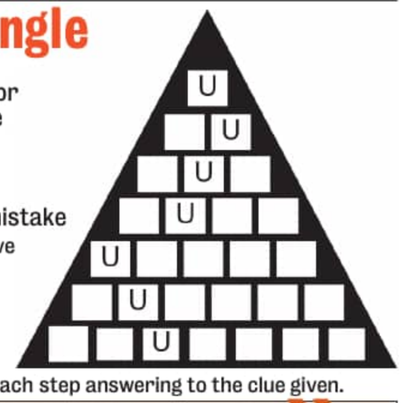
Riddler

Swaff is sitting at his desk, being cool, when his younger brother Geemiee walks up. Geemiee had recently been practicing his (fake) magical powers, trying to turn cheese into more cheese, so he believes he can beat Swaff in anything. He sets up a little competition, the first to get 5 ounces of water to freeze, will be proclaimed the coolest guy in their home. They set up some rules, as follows: -They both can only use normal water that comes out of their stainless steel faucet. -They both use identical containers -They both must use the same freezer, at the same time. Now, Swaff realizes that if he was to lose, he would become less cool, he just doesn't roll like that. So, how can Swaff have the best chance of winning/Geemiee?

Alpha triangle

1 A type of turn
2 Delhi University abbr
3 Scheduled to arrive
4 Churlish
5 Below
6 Unwelcome load
7 An embarrassing mistake

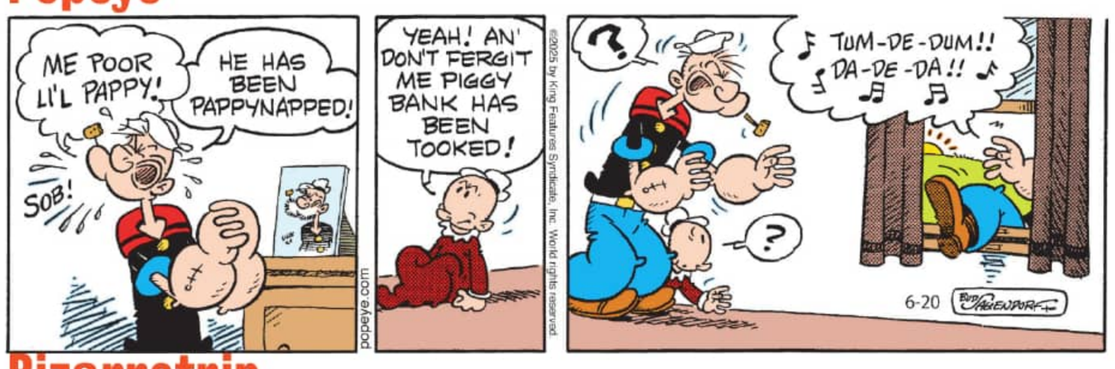
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.



DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

WHERE'S YOUR MILK?
IN THE DAIRY CASE
AND WHAT'S A DAIRY CASE?
THAT WOULD BE WHEN A COW SUES A FARMER FOR COLD HANDS
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD DO THIS HOUSE NEXT?
DON'T LET THE SIGNS SCARE YOU! MR. SCOTT IS A RECLUSE, BUT GENEROUS!
SCOOP!
SCOOP!
WHAT'D I TELL YA?
THANK YOU!

Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Optimism shapes your outlook. Love feels generous and joyful. Career opportunities expand when you share your vision. Financial matters benefit from positive planning. Travel broadens your horizons and confidence. At home, conversations feel inspiring and supportive. Your enthusiasm becomes contagious, helping you attract people and situations that reflect your hopeful, forward-looking mind-set.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

This week, slow down and let others share the load. Ask for help freely; friends and colleagues are willing. You don't need to handle everything alone, so release control rest.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Don't wait for directions at work. Decide next move independently, take initiative, and act confidently. Superiors will notice, appreciate drive, and be impressed by results you deliver through leadership initiative.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Confidence is high and support surrounds you this week. Step forward, showcase abilities, and engage widely. Influential observers are paying attention, so demonstrate talent and seize opportunities as they appear.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Success feels effortless, but don't tempt fate. Focus on long-term goals while managing details carefully. Balanced attention prevents mistakes and keeps progress steady rather than reckless or careless now behaviour.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Attraction draws opposites together briefly, then highlights unbridgeable differences. Accept that not all partnerships last. Some connections simply aren't designed for long-term collaboration, and that's normal in real life sometimes.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Imagination lifts your mood now, and that's healthy. Lightness returns after seriousness. Allow humour, playfulness, and creative wandering to refresh your outlook and bring joy back into daily life again.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Harmony comes easily this week, but beware excessive leniency. Forgive minor slips, yet address serious issues promptly. Fair bound protect respect and prevent bigger problems later from escalating unnecessarily again.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Multiple responsibilities test you this week, yet you manage competently. Avoid adding more commitments, or everything could collapse. Know your limits and protect existing obligations carefully from overload and burnout.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Being kind won't suffice now. Early events demand firmness and clear bound. Address under performance directly, show seriousness, and ensure standards are understood without apology or hesitation, confusion, delay, doubt, compromise.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

A small loss soon creates space for progress. Don't cling to what leaves; focus on what arrives. Change opens doors constantly, replacing endings with beginnings, growth, opportunity, learning, renewal ahead.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

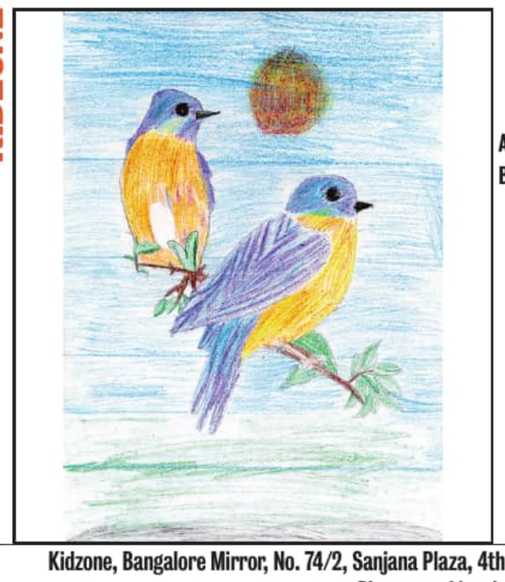
Communicate gently this week. Soft words persuade better than force. Choose patience, empathy, and forgiveness to bring others toward understanding and cooperation at home, work, discussions, negotiations, relationships, conflicts, daily.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

If plans feel uninspiring, postpone them. Rest deliberately this week. Mental and physical recovery now restores energy later, boosting motivation, clarity, and performance, confidence, balance, creativity, resilience, enthusiasm, strength, and momentum.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru

Tanya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER All Swaff has to do in order to be the winner, is use hot water. Geemlee, being less cool than Swaff, didn't know that water with a hot average temperature freezes faster than water that is at room temperature. The phenomenon that hot water may freeze faster than cold is often called the Mpemba effect.

SOLVE IN 1M
$= \sqrt[3]{5^2} \times 4\sqrt{5} \times 5^{\frac{1}{4}} \times 5^{\frac{1}{12}}$
$= 5^{\frac{2}{3}} \times 5^{\frac{1}{4}} \times 5^{\frac{1}{12}}$
$= 5^{(2/3 + 1/4 + 1/12)}$
$= 5^{((8+3+1)/12)}$
$= 5^{(12/12)} = 5^1 = 5$

FAST FIVE

C	A	B	A	L
E	L	E	G	Y
D	I	S	A	S
A	B	O	V	E
R	I	M	E	D

STRIKE OUT

I	M	P	A	L	A		N	O	B	B	L	E		
N	I	N	E	T	Y		P	E	S	T	E	R		
O		R		E	M	S		T		L		O		
R	E	A	L	I	A		S	A	L	O	M	E		
C		D		D	O	D	O		B			T		
A	N	E	W		F	L	I	P		N	A	E		
D	E	C	O	Y		A	D	I	E	U		M		
	E		H	A	T	B	A	N	D		E			
E		A	D	D	L	E		S	I	S	S	Y		
N	O	N		D	A	I	S		T	O	U	T		
O		J		E	P	E	E		H			I		
P	E	A	K	E	D		D	I	C	T	U	M		
M	R		E		M	O	B		A		N			
I	M	P	A	L	A		N	O	B	B	L	E		

QUICK

E	X		C	U	S		E		C	H	I	S	E	L
S		I			I			C		T				A
S	A	M	O	S	A		S	A	N	I		T		Y
E		E		A	D	O	R	E		D				A
	A	L	L	O	W		E		Y	E	A	R		
D		O			O	W	N	E	R			T		
E	S	P	N		G		N		F	U	S	E		
N		I	C	E	N	I		A			B			
G	O	O	F		V		G	E	N	E	S			
I		V		R	E	L	E	T		T		S		
S	O	L	V	E	D		B	E	R	A	T	E		
S		A		W			R		H			W		
A	I	S	L	E	S		I	C	I	C	L	E		

SUDOKU

8	4	2	6	7	1	3	5	9
1	6	9	3	5	2	7	4	8
3	5	7	9	8	4	2	1	6
9	1	3	2	4	5	8	6	7
2	7	4	1	6	8	9	3	5
6	8	5	7	9	3	4	2	1
5	9	6	4	3	7	1	8	2
4	2	8	5	1	9	6	7	3
7	3	1	8	2	6	5	9	4

MENSA PUZZLE
2. The numbers in each line of 3 circles, going through the centre, add up to 15.

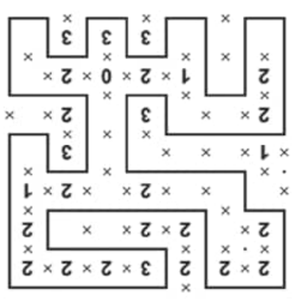
QUOTE UNCODE
The big thing is that you know what you want.

BULL'S EYE
mash, oomph, sham, SHAMPOO

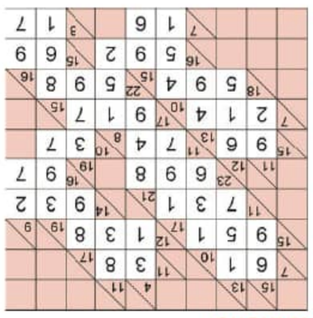
ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, DU, Due, Rude, Under, Burden, Blunder.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 2 + 2 + 8 = 21
Medium
7 + 4 − 7 x 6 = 24
Hard
2 x 2 + 4 − 3 = 5

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Wild threats
"Quit or I'll murder you," Paapa Essiedu opens up about death threats after joining new 'Harry Potter' series

Mind over heart

Love and ambition can sometimes clash with each other, says Vijay Varma

Known for portraying dark, volatile characters with unsettling ease, Vijay Varma has won praise for performances in projects like Dahaad, Mirzapur and Kaalkoot. But last year, he took a sharp turn with Gustaakh Ishq. The actor traded brooding silences and moral ambiguity for wide-eyed romance, revealing a softer, more vulnerable side of himself that audiences had rarely seen. Reflecting on the transition, Vijay admitted that shedding the emotional weight of his previous characters wasn't easy.

Vijay shared, "For Gustaakh Ishq, I had to unlearn the toughness I had gathered from playing some extremely difficult men on screen. I had to remind myself of the innocence and wide-eyedness I once had when I started out as a college kid in my early days at FTII, Mumbai."

Even though Gustaakh Ishq didn't click commercially, it allowed Vijay to showcase his range. When asked if he's a romantic at heart, he said, "Yes, I am romantic, and it is all over the internet." However, he acknowledged the tug of-war between personal ambition and matters of the heart. "Sometimes ambition can come in the way of love. Ambition and romance can fight with each other. But I have often chosen romance over anything else. I'm very sensitive and I feel things very deeply, and I think my ability to feel so deeply, something that I can't really switch off, is probably one of the main reasons I became an actor."

–Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

Tamannaah opens up on 20 years in cinema

Mumbai witnessed a striking blend of cinema, couture and contemporary storytelling as Lakme Fashion Week x FDCI 2026 brought together leading designers and Bollywood stars on one platform. Tamannaah Bhatia and Shanaya Kapoor commanding attention as showstoppers for Bhumika Sharma and Ritika Mirchandani's collection.

Taking centre stage for Bhumika Sharma was Tamannaah Bhatia, who walked as the showstopper in a striking modern lehenga. The outfit featured a deep red base adorned with delicate silver-toned embroidery.

About her presence at the event, Tamannaah said, "This year feels especially meaningful. There's been a lot of collaboration with galleries, and everything has become more diverse... You get the chance to see what designers are showcasing-- the emerging trends and what people might be wearing next year."

She reflected on her two decades in the film industry, saying, "I'm constantly thinking ahead and creating for the future, particularly through my jewellery. As an artist, it can take years — sometimes even decades — to truly understand and appreciate the craft. I still feel like I'm learning."

–ANI

Anushka's Telugu buzz

Allu Arjun is working on his upcoming film tentatively called 'AA22xA6' with 'Jawan' fame director Atlee. The film reportedly has a star studded line up with Deepika Padukone playing the female lead. Now, fresh reports suggest Anushka Sharma is also set to star in the sci-fi film.

According to a report by Deccan Chronicle, another big Bollywood star seems to be joining the ambitious project. It is suggested that she is in talks to join the film and if this turns out to be true, it will be her first Telugu movie. But there is no official confirmation yet.

Anushka Sharma's recent work Anushka Sharma was last seen in the 2018 film, 'Zero', opposite Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif. Since then, she has yet to make her presence in a full-fledged role. It is imperative to add that the actress, after transitioning

herself to a more producer role, hasn't been in the news for any acting roles. She was set to star in 2022 with the film 'Chakda 'Xpress', a biopic of former Indian women's cricketer Jhulan Goswami. However, it is expected to be delayed and even rumoured to have been shelved.

Anushka Sharma and her husband Virat Kohli are now based in London with their son and daughter. **–ETimes**

Amanda Peet reveals cancer diagnosis

Actress Amanda Peet has publicly shared her breast cancer journey in a heartfelt note, revealing how the diagnosis coincided with her parents' final days. The piece, titled 'My Season of Ativan', provides an intimate account of the actor's medical experiences.

As per Deadline, Peet, wrote in an essay for The New Yorker that she had been undergoing biannual breast checkups when a routine scan prior to Labour Day last year raised concerns.

"Dr. K. usually chatted me up while she examined me, but this time she went silent," Peet recounted.

Following a biopsy, she immediately sensed something was wrong as her doctor personally delivered the sample to Cedars-Sinai Pathology.

The initial report revealed a small tumor, prompting further tests to determine its receptor status, which Peet described as crucial in assessing the cancer's severity. She shared the anxious moments spent waiting for results alongside her husband, Game of Thrones co-creator David Benioff. The news brought relief: Peet's cancer was hormone-receptor-positive and HER2-negative, considered more favourable for treatment.

A subsequent MRI revealed a second mass in the same breast, delaying a planned lumpectomy and requiring an MRI-guided biopsy. Peet described the procedure as "excruciating", likening the process to a "perverse game of Battleship" due to the precision required, as per Deadline. Fortunately, the second mass was benign, and her treatment was limited to a lumpectomy and radiation, avoiding chemotherapy or a double mastectomy. .

Reflecting on the radiation treatment, Peet admitted it was largely manageable but noted discomfort toward the end.

–ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Music magic again

Crazy Star Ravichandran and music director Hamsalekha's contribution to Sandalwood is immense and their musical blockbuster hits during the 1990s are proof of that. They stopped associating with each other after Preetsodu Thappa, due to personal reasons. They will come together again to present hits of their collaborations in a six-hour programme on May 30 at GK Grand Arena. Prominent actors, including Megastar Chiranjeevi and Shilpa Shetty are expected to grace the event.

Ravichandran said that many celebrated when his friendship with Hamsalekha broke up but there were some people who tried to bridge the gap between them. "Friendship break-ups are natural when two friends become successful and also have an ego and temper. But, we remain good friends," said Ravichandran. Hamsalekha said the programme will transport music lovers to a different world.

Premi on April 3

Upcoming actor Advik Siddalingaiah is elated with the positive response to the trailer of his latest movie Premi. Advik has acted in a few Kannada movies, but Premi is his first in the lead role. The trailer of the movie was unveiled at SRV Theater on Tuesday.

Ba Ma Harish, former president of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, director Satya, PRO Sudheendra Venkatesh, and choreographer Raju Master unveiled it.

"I got training in acting before this movie went on floors. I thank my mother for writing the script. My father Siddalingaiah is supporting this movie. I thank director Pradeep Varma for his guidance," said Advik.

Director Pradeep Varma said he joined the team as a music director but got an opportunity to direct this movie also. "The movie is set against the backdrop of the 1980s and it is aimed to showcase the difference between love affairs during the 1980s and now. I could handle the megaphone with ease. The movie has turned out well and I am very happy with the cast and crew who worked hard," said Varma.

Siddalingaiah said that he supported the movie to promote his son as a hero.